

Ice Lake Road – Ice Lake, 5.1 km

This loop builds on a popular new Hillcrest walk, but is shortened to allow it to start at an easy parking spot. It's mostly fairly level. This loop uses recent trail work: city trail crew (2 boardwalks, a bench and some new trail) as well as Hillcrest Community Association (trail surfacing to tame slippery spots, and a bench). Thanks all!!

This trail description is for mobility challenged walkers — in essence those, such as seniors, who really don't want to fall!

Trailhead: Park on the Ice Lake Road (now closed) off the Alaska Highway, opposite the entrance to Lodestar Lane (road to Air North!) Don't block access to the electrical substation. This trailhead should have a cleared year-round parking lot; it's well used.

1: As you turn off the highway, you will see the trail right in front of you. Note the survey marker. Follow the trail for about 750 m, passing many side trails. As you cross the new boardwalk, watch that your walking pole tips don't get caught between the planks!

2: Turn left at the first trail past the boardwalk and follow as it goes along a rough dirt track. The track needs surfacing or perhaps a new section to bypass the vehicle ruts. Follow the track past the powerline corridor across the wetlands. Look for the table-and-chair art piece in the wetlands. It's made from a fallen tree that blocked this trail for a number of years.

3: After about 600 m, you'll see the other new boardwalk on your left. Cross it and go up the hill. Going up is easier than coming down; a switchback would help here. You ascend about 50 m over the next 300 m. After about 400 m, the trail comes up beside the 2nd rock outcrop.

4: If you go onto the outcrop for the view, watch as it has a dropoff. Climbing down to sit on the bench is also slippery. As the trail continues past the outcrop it can be a bit slippery, but it's not steep. After about 230 m, you'll come to a T-intersection.

5: Turn right and go down the gentle hill until you come to the Dyke Road Trail. Next you will follow a 2-km section around Ice Lake. Option: turn left at the Dyke Road Trail and walk about 450 m to #9.

6: Go straight across and take the right hand section of new trail. After about 360 m, you'll cross the Blair Witch trail, a one-way downhill for bikes; you can easily miss it as it's not heavily used, at least not this winter.

7: You'll pass a little bench sitting peacefully overlooking Ice Lake. The trail continues around the lake. The buildings at the end of the lake are part of Lobird's water system. The trail will shortly cross the access road for the pumphouse.

The east side of the lake has nice spots for a lakeside bench!
8: When you come out at the next trail, turn left and continue along the track for about 250 m. A small side trail

leads in to the edge of the lake. (Going right leads to the Ice Lake Road which you cross to follow the Rock Garden and Weigh Scales trails.)

9: Cross over the Dyke Road Trail again and follow the track for about 440 m. You will pass a few side dirt tracks.

10: Just before you get to the Ice Lake Road, a dirt track will come in on your left. Turn and follow it; you'll soon see a small new trail off to your right. It cuts around this small old borrow pit (quarry) which is often muddy, and recently, full of water. It's occasionally used by kids for bike jumps.

11: Take the right hand track as you come around the borrow pit.

12: Turn right at the power line and follow the track out to the road where you'll be back at the starting point.

